

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB, ET

SUBJECT: CELU PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FIRST ACTIONS;
SEVERANCE OF CELU/AALC RELATIONS

REF: ADDIS 6558 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN SESSIONS JUNE 2 AND 3 NEW CELU PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF NUMEROUS PROPOSED CHANGES. FIRST ACTION TO BE TAKEN WAS VOTE TO SUSPEND OLD CELU CONSTITUTION. INTERIM CONSTITUTION WILL BE PREPARED UNTIL FINAL WORK CAN BE UNDERTAKEN TO DRAFT NEW CONSTITUTION IN KEEPING WITH PHILOSOPHY OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM. SUSPENSION OF OLD CONSTITUTION WAS APPARENTLY DEALT WITH ON URGENT BASIS AS QUESTION WAS BEING RAISED WHETHER OR NOT QUORUM ACTUALLY PRESENT ON MAY 31 AND JUNE 1 MEETINGS.

2. FIVE POINT RESOLUTION NEXT CONSIDERED. THIS INCLUDED VOTE TO SEVER CELU/AALC RELATIONS, WHICH WAS PASSED BUT NOT AS YET OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATED TO AALC REP. DEBATE INCLUDED EXTENSIVE CRITIQUE OF AMERICAN LABOR RELATIONS WITH "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES"

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GOING BACK AS FAR AS BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION. AFL-CIO ESPECIALLY

CONDEMNED FOR ALLEGED ANTI-SOCIALIST ACTIONS IN CHILE IN RECENT YEARS. PRESENTATION WAS IN SUCH GREAT DETAIL THAT IT WENT FAR BEYOND KNOWLEDGE OF LABOR GROUP PARTICIPATING IN DEBATE. CONCLUSION PROBABLY THAT MATERIAL WAS FED IN EITHER BY CELU STAFFERS GIRMACHEW LEMMA (SEE ADDIS 5928) AND/OR KIFLU, WHO SPENT SEVERAL YEARS STUDYING JOURNALISM IN RUSSIA. IN ANY CASE, THIS WAS FIRST SPECIFIC APPEARANCE OF COMMUNIST LINE AND CONTENT WAS DISTINCTLY RUSSIAN.

3. RESOLUTION ALSO (A) CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 17 POINT AGREEMENT WHICH CONCLUDED GENERAL STRIKE OF MARCH 1974, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM WAGE; (B) APPROVED DISMISSAL OF SEVERAL CELU STAFFERS (AT LEAST FIVE KNOWN TO HAVE RECEIVED NOTICES) WHO WERE CONSIDERED LOYAL TO OLD CELU LEADERSHIP; (C) URGED DIRG TO RELEASE DETAINED CELU LEADERS BEYENE, FISSEHA AND GHIDEY AND "OTHER PROGRESSIVE LEADERS" AND TO RELEASE STUDENTS IN DETENTION; AND (D) CALLED FOR STUDY OF CELU FINANCIAL SITUATION.

4. MARKOS HAGOS, NEW CHAIRMAN, WAS NOTIFIED LATE JUNE 2 THAT HE APPOINTED ORER DELEGATE TO ILO GENEVA CONFERENCE. FACT THAT HE COULD COMPLETE HEALTH, PASSPORT, TAX AND ALL OTHER FORMALITIES TO ENABLE HIM TO DEPART NEXT DAY SUGGESTS HE MUST HAVE BEEN PREPARED WELL IN ADVANCE.

5. IT IS BECOMING MORE APPARENT THAT STRATEGY OF MAY 31-JUNE 1 MEETING WAS CAREFULLY PRE-PLANNED. SEVERAL INFORMANTS, RELIABLE IN PAST, BELIEVE THAT PRIME MOVERS WERE GIRMACHEW LEMMA OF CELU STAFF AND GETACHEW AMARE WHO SUPPOSEDLY OBTAINED SUPPORT OF LT. COL. ATNAFU ABATE, 2ND VICE CHAIRMAN OF PMAC, AND LEFT-WING GROUP IN DIRG. FORMER OPPOSITION LEADERS, MAINLY FROM SMALL UNIONS, ARE SAID TO HAVE JOINED IN ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND WERE REWARDED WITH SEATS ON PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

6. OLDER, MORE SUBSTANTIAL UNIONS ARE SAID TO BE CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL FROM CELU. FOR PRESENT, HOWEVER, THEY ARE DISORGANIZED AND REACTING INDEPENDENTLY AND SLOWLY.

7. FOR GENEVA; PLEASE PASS FOREGOING INFORMATION TO PAT O'FARRELL AND JERRY FUNK OF AALC ATTENDING ILO CONFERENCE.
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